

## **Testimony in Support of HB. 6452, An Act Concerning Discrimination**



My name is Glenn Koetzner, and my wife Monica Connor and I moved to Sharon, Connecticut in 1984. We have raised two children here, and my wife has been employed as a teacher in Region One for 19 years. I have been a business owner and a privately employed consultant/assistant. I am testifying in support of An Act Concerning Discrimination.

I don't think I can adequately convey my disappointment in the General Assembly for failing to act on this bill last year after it passed the Judiciary and Senate. Too often, politics trump protections for a group of people who vote, pay taxes, work hard, and only want the same opportunities and protections as every other citizen. My transgender friends, brothers and sisters deserve every single right that I have, but the state of Connecticut has refused to recognize that and put basic protections into place that every other citizen in this state currently has. I urge you to pass HB 6452 this year, without fail, and make this right.

I am honored and grateful to count among my friends a number of transgendered, gender-questioning, gender-queer, and gender non-conforming people. It pains me to know that any one of them could be fired from their job or denied housing based solely on their gender expression. I cannot accept the fact that I have rights that they do not.

As we evolve as a society, we have to change to protect those who now choose to live their lives openly without hiding who they truly are. There is no mistaking that it is your job to make sure that all the citizens of this state have equal protection. You were elected to do that, and my sincere hope is that you will uphold your responsibility to end discrimination in Connecticut law so that all citizens are treated fairly.

I am so proud that Connecticut, less than six months ago, ended marriage discrimination for same-sex couples. It is now time to stand up and pass HB 6452, and end discrimination for transgender and gender non-conforming citizens of Connecticut.

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